

**Council on Postsecondary Education
May 21, 2007**

GED Top Score Award

The GED Testing Service annually recognizes the person with the highest score in each state through the GED National Awards for Outstanding Achievement Program. John Moriarity of Louisville is the recipient of Kentucky's 2006 award for high score with a total GED score of 3860 out of 4000 possible points. John will be recognized at the May Council meeting.

John is a Louisville Technical Institute student and plans to major in clinical psychology at Murray State University. When John's father retired from the military, he started working for GE in Louisville. John attended Trinity High School and then Bluegrass ChalleNGe Academy, where he earned his GED. In his biography John said,

"During my junior year I was making bad decisions concerning my life and my parents thought that the Bluegrass ChalleNGe Academy would help. I attended the Bluegrass ChalleNGe Academy in Fort Knox for the next six months. There I received direction in life because the decisions I was making were leading me nowhere. I learned many things while attending, mainly that of responsibility. I had always blamed others for my actions, but now everything was placed squarely on my shoulders."

Major General Donald C. Storm, Adjutant General, Kentucky National Guard, said,

"The Kentucky Bluegrass ChalleNGe Program is a Kentucky National Guard and National Guard Bureau initiative designed to enable Kentucky's youth an opportunity for a second chance. While we are very proud of John's accomplishments during his attendance and completion of the resident phase of the program, we are very thankful for the opportunity to partner with state and federal agencies to promote and execute positive programs that provide hope and opportunity to young Kentuckians."

Bluegrass ChalleNGe consists of eight core components delivered in a 22-week residential environment and includes a 12-month nonresidential phase providing mentoring and placement support. Attainment of the GED is an important facet of the total program. Bluegrass ChalleNGe receives funding from Kentucky Adult Education as well as the National Guard Bureau, Department of Defense.

Kentucky GED test centers tested more than 12,000 candidates in calendar year 2006, and the state awarded more than 9,000 GED high school equivalency diplomas. Five students had scores higher than 3700.

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